



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

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December 1, 2009

The Honorable Steve M. Mihalchick
Administrative Law Judge
Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings
PO Box 64620
St. Paul, MN 55164-0620

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ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS

RE: Large Electric Power Generating Plant Site, High Voltage Transmission Line Route,
Natural Gas Pipeline Route (Partial Exemption) Joint Permit Application for Mesaba
Energy Project Proposed by Excelsior Energy Inc. PUC Docket E6472/GS-06-668

Dear Judge Mihalchick:

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has received the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Mesaba Energy Project available for public comment on November 16, 2009, through December 2, 2009.

The MPCA had previously submitted detailed comments on the Draft EIS on January 11, 2008, based on a thorough review by several staff in different environmental media. Based on the limited time available to review the responses to comments in the Final EIS, the MPCA will await the submittal of revised permit applications containing definitive project information before conducting further review.

Please be aware that this letter does not constitute approval by the MPCA of any or all elements of the project for the purpose of pending or future permit action(s) by the MPCA. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the project proposer to secure any required permits and to comply with any requisite permit conditions. If you have any questions concerning our review of this project, please contact Elise Doucette of my staff by e-mail at elise.doucette@state.mn.us or by telephone at 651-757-2316.

Sincerely,

Craig Affeldt
Supervisor
Environmental Review and Feedlot Section
Regional Division

CA/EMD:mbo

cc: Carolina Schutt – MPCA, St. Paul
Elise Doucette – MPCA, St. Paul
Jeff Udd – MPCA, Duluth